

Business & Economy

Action	What are we (or partners) already doing / proposing to do	Proposed way forward for WDBC	Timescales	Responsible – Team/Group /Strategy	
Ensuring that we support the skills and training needs of local businesses					
1.1	Consider the role that the Council can play in encouraging the sharing of best practice	Online Pop up business schools delivered	Develop a plan for future business support training (including further pop up business schools)	Short term	Recovery Management Team
1.2	Explore opportunities for Enterprise Hubs to encourage sharing of best practice and networking	a) Team Devon will look to extend the Devon Workhubs programme, securing £1m to build on the existing network and enable rural communities and smaller towns to grow their own local service provision	Engage with Team Devon and HOTWS LEP to ensure West Devon benefits from the Work Hub programme	Medium term	Recovery Management Team
1.3	Develop a strategy for supporting businesses to adapt skills for the future	a) Team Devon will engage additional staff resources to support Agriculture, Food and Drink producers to diversify and access new markets. Additionally £1m of additional resources will be sought in order to support reskilling of those leaving tourism, retail and other hard hit sectors	Monitor and ensure (through our Team Devon links) that local businesses benefit from the available support	Medium term	Recovery Management Team
		b) Team Devon will develop a grant scheme to support projects that look to extend the Tourism season and reinforce local supply chains	Ensure that we promote and support applications from businesses within West Devon	Short term	Recovery Management Team
		c) Team Devon will look to maximise Devon's sustainable agriculture and food potential	West Devon will explore how Planning Policy can support enterprise through, for example, diversification of agriculture[1]	Medium term	Development Management
		d) Team Devon exploring options for grants of £5,000 to support adaption costs for tourism sector (initially from Kick Start fund)	Promote the scheme to businesses within our area	Short/Medium	Recovery Management Team
		e) Team Devon – implementing a regional certification scheme on opening safely	Promote scheme to local businesses	Short term	Environmental Health
Ensuring that we engaging with Businesses to understand the challenges they are facing and the support they require					

1.4	Engage with existing businesses to understand what support they require	a) Capacity of the Place and Enterprise team increased with the for creation of an Economic Development Officer post as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process	b) Review of existing roles within the team to ensure that there is sufficient capacity to progress this area of work	Short term	Recovery Management Team
			c) Hold sector specific discussions/ surveys to understand local need including online workshops	Short term	Recovery Management Team
			d) Re-establish Business Forums as a regular route to engage with businesses across the Borough (once we understand what our businesses want)	Medium term	Recovery Management Team
		e) We have renewed our contract with Business Information Point for 2020/21 to provide support and advice to existing businesses that are considering establishing in West Devon	f) Consider the support packages we want to commission from the end of the current contract on 31 st March 2021	Short term	Recovery Management Team
		g) Team Devon will aim to secure £600,000 of additional business support capacity across Devon	h) Promote scheme within West Devon and monitor success through links with Team Devon	Medium term	Recovery Management Team,
Developing our tourism offer					
1.5	Encourage a Devon wide approach to tourism.	a) Team Devon are establishing an enhanced business support offer for the Tourism Sector	b) Promote the support that is available through our re-established Business Forums (see 1.4C)	Medium term	Recovery Management Team
			c) Develop the West Devon Place narrative	Medium term	Recovery Management team
1.6	Identify and ensure that key infrastructure is in place in order to encourage tourism	a) Team Devon will develop a sustainable tourism, hospitality and leisure support package which will include accessible tourism, activity, culture and wellness tourism		TBC	Recovery Management Team
Ensuring adequate Infrastructure					
1.7	Lobby for better Broadband to enable diversification of business in West Devon – including increased homeworking	a) Team Devon will work with communities to maximise the Rural Gigabit Voucher Programme and local Mobile Boost Voucher schemes in addition piloting new solutions where poor coverage remains	b) Monitor at this stage and when launched, consider how we can support applications from within West Devon	Medium term	Recovery Management Team
		c) WDBC have supported a bid from Plymouth City Council to connect public buildings across the Borough – this will increase potential for better broadband for residents / businesses	d) Continue to work with PCC to ensure the benefits of the scheme are realised	Medium term	Head of IT Practice

1.8	Understand from our businesses what infrastructure they need in place for the 'new normal'		Discuss with businesses through the actions set out in 1.4b to inform an infrastructure plan	Short term	Recovery Management Team
Regeneration and Commercial					
1.9	1.9 Consider how we attract and retain businesses in West Devon	We have begun talking to Town Councils to jointly consider options.	a) Consider a West Devon 'Backing Business Campaign	Medium Term	Recovery Management Team
			b) Lead the development of 'Buy Local' Campaigns	Medium Term	Recovery Management Team
1.10	1.10 Engage with other partners including Western Power, South West Water etc to understand the impact of Covid-19 on their plans for West Devon	Team Devon will engage with Western Power distribution to enable smart energy management infrastructure and renewable energy generation through upgrading the national grid network	Engage with Team Devon to ensure that West Devon is represented in lobbying of Government	Medium term	Recovery Management Team

Place and Environment

Action	What are we (or partners) already doing / proposing to do	Proposed way forward for WDBC	Timescales	Responsible – Team/Group /Strategy	
Built Environment					
2.3	2.3 Develop plans to support our future highstreets :	a) Team Devon are pursuing up to £15m funding for regeneration projects within Town's which will contribute to the visitor economy in 8 rural and coastal locations	WDBC to engage with Team Devon and Town Councils to ensure that Towns within the Borough are in the best position to access this funding.	Short term	Recovery Management Team
2.4	Seek views of retailers on what they consider the future high street experience could be		b) Ensure that WDBC Officer resource is available to support Towns in any application / bid process	Short term	Recovery Management Team
		c) Team Devon will seek investment to facilitate city/town centre living with an initial investment in development of vacant high street property in 3 pilot locations	Ensure that if considered appropriate, we bid for pilot funding for a West Devon town	Short term	Recovery Management Team
2.5	2.4 How do we encourage more shared spaces in our highstreets ? Costly to develop but can do in small parts. Also a Devon wide approach to marketing our highstreets	a)Team Devon will facilitate the safe use of public spaces through effective licencing and planning to encourage market traders to bring in activity and animate places	Ensure that our planning and licencing approach support the Team Devon proposals	Short/medium term	Recovery Management Team
		b) Team Devon will Lobby MP's re licencing changes for use of public spaces	Provide local lobbying of MP's aligned to Team Devon approach	Short term	Leader /Council
			c) Link in to action 1.2 to encourage Workhubs in empty high street spaces		
2.6	2.5 Explore the potential of public wifi access in our town centres		a) Discuss potential with key public broadband providers and link in with action 1.7a	Medium / Long term	Recovery Management Team

Residents, Communities and Partnerships

Action	What are we (or partners) already doing / proposing to do	Proposed way forward for WDBC	Timescales	Responsible – Team/Group /Strategy
Local Knowledge and Expertise				
3.1 Improve awareness of the support available from the Council and partners		Develop briefings / resources for our Town and Parish Council Colleagues on support available	Medium term	Recovery Management Team
Supporting Future Resilience				
3.5 Develop plans for how we harness and support the successful community response demonstrated through Covid-19		Team Devon are currently developing their response to any local lockdowns. WDBC is an active participant in these discussions.	Short term	Being carried out by Team Devon
			Encourage Town and Parish Councils to update emergency plans including considering details of volunteers	Medium term

Service Recovery

Action	What are we (or partners) already doing / proposing to do	Proposed way forward for WDBC	Timescales	Responsible – Team/Group /Strategy
How we will resource activities within the recovery plan				
4.1 Consider the Accommodation Strategy in light of revised requirements for the future.	Work has been ongoing to ensure that we maximise the use of accommodation at KP	Accommodation Working Group to be re-established to consider our future accommodation requirements and any joint opportunities with South Hams (link in to developing Customer Access Strategy 4.4)	Short term	Accommodation Working Group
4.2 Review Strategic Capacity to deliver our future priorities.	Business Managers have undertaken a review of how we adapted service delivery during the initial Covid-19 response in order identify any future opportunities.	As Members priorities are developed from each of the themes, we will firm up resourcing and delivery plan.	Short term	Business Managers

Communications and Governance

Action	What are we (or partners) already doing / proposing to do	Proposed way forward for WDBC	Timescales	Responsible – Team/Group /Strategy
Strengthen our community leadership voice				
	Members have led a number of community zoom calls which have been successful in understanding local issues	b)Continue with the successful Member led Zoom calls with community groups	Short term	Members
Strengthening our regional voice and messaging				
5.6 Play an active part in the Team Devon response and recovery	This is ongoing. Officers and Leaders are already participating in Team Devon planning to ensure that our voice is reflected in final plans.	Continued engagement with HOTSW LEP, best practice sharing, horizon scanning etc.	Ongoing	Recovery Management Team
Strengthen Member engagement and development				
5.7 Explore potential for Member 360 reviews / appraisals as a way to support our Member Development programme		Engage with Devon Member Development team to develop an outline proposal	Short term	Political Structures Working Group
5.8 Include Member development opportunities from this action plan in the future programme including - Refresh on Council and Committee process – raising motions to Council etc - Social Media Engagement		Forward Plan of member training and development to be updated – consider timing of training – maybe half day formal meetings, half day training Roll out E-Learning for Members for some of the courses that need a regular refresh – Data Protection / FOI / Information Security / Safeguarding etc	Short term Short term	Political Structures Working Group Democratic Services / HR
Strengthen the decision making process				
5.9 Identify ways of understanding member views when developing policy and strategy – for example online polls		Identify best practice from other Local Authorities for consideration by PSWG	Short term	Political Structures Working Group

	5.10 Ensure that the Constitution reflects current ways of working and is easier to access online		Update by Monitoring Officer and PSWG	Medium term	Political Structures / Monitoring Officer
	5.12 Build on the positives of Informal Council	Informal Councils work well for free-flowing debate	Consider shorter, single topic discussions / briefings etc	Short term	Leader / Dem Services
	5.13 Opportunities to strengthen scrutiny		Explore opportunities for more 'experts' to inform Scrutiny discussions using technology	Medium term	Dem Services
Realising the benefits of remote meetings					
	5.14 Look to build on the benefits of remote meetings (supporting our carbon neutral aim and increasing ability to attend)	Current legislation enables formal remote meetings until May 2021. We continue to hold successful remote meetings.	Explore range of meetings that we could continue to hold remotely , which we should aim to reinstate face to face and where there is a hybrid	Ongoing	Political Structures working Group
		We have already begun looking at options for streaming meetings and better linking that stream to the associated papers	Officers will consider the process and technology used for participating in streaming meetings to see if any further improvements can be made or better public participation can be included	Short term	Recovery Management Team
	5.15 Understand the limitations of the Council Chamber for meetings given the likelihood for longer term social distancing		Consider future accommodation options	Short/Medium term	Accommodation Working Group
Closer Working with other Local Authorities					
		We have developed effective working relationships with other Devon Councils. Team Devon will support inclusive growth and community wealth building by bringing together anchor institutions (those large, typically public organisations) in order to maximise social gain through our procurement practices	West Devon Procurement Officer will engage with this group and identify potential joint opportunities.	Short term	Procurement Lead Officer